galvano-cautery are dealt with in the remaining pages. A description is given of the author's cautery battery, but it is to be regretted that he does not give the size of the apparatus and the work that it is capable of performing.

The brochure will certainly be found useful by many busy practitioners, and we would recommend such to buy it, for it contains many valuable and practical hints. W. S.

ART. XXXIV.—*The Electrical Bath; its Medical Uses, Effects, and Appliances.* By GEORGE M. SCHWEIG, M.D., Member of the New York County Medical Society, etc. 16mo. pp. 134. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1877.

WE well remember having seen in the pages of a contemporary, a couple of years ago, a paper by Dr. Schweig, on "some of the uses of the electric bath," and were struck with the circumstance that, although the author claimed that his method was new, there was absolutely no intimation given as to how the treatment was applied. We had anxiously waited for some further information, and had hoped that this communication from the author might place within our reach the plan, which, according to the above-mentioned paper, had wrought some wondrous cures. The book before us, however, while claiming in the preface to "present to the profession all that is necessary to a full comprehension of the electro-balneological treatment," does not teach anything in regard to the actual application of the author's method.

Minute details are given as to the construction of the bath-tub, the kind of wood to be used, number of coats of paint, etc., and even as to the manner of placing a carbon electrode at each end of the tub. But how is the application to be made? We may be stupid, but we cannot find out. We cannot discover if the patient is to be in contact with the foot or head electrode, or with both, or neither, and it seems as if this were an important point to know. Then as to the strength of the electrical current employed in the baths, we are told that batteries vary so much in strength that it is impossible to express this in figures. But surely the batteries manufactured by the Galvano-Faradic Co. are so well known that if it were said that a current from so many inches of the primary or secondary coil of one of these instruments were used, we would have some idea of the strength.

The author refers to using in the baths as an adjuvant to treatment certain chemical substances. Some of these are to be used with a view of their being absorbed by the body, and others are to aid in eliminating metallic poisons from the body. We are not told if there is any difference in the method if one or the other end is desired, but to us that is of small importance, for we must acknowledge to having but little faith in the absorption of iron, iodide of potassium, or *extract of malt* by the skin through the agency of electricity. The above substances are what Dr. Schweig says he has used. If these substances are taken up by the system in the above manner, why not demonstrate it by experiment? If iodide of potassium is absorbed it will be eliminated by the urine, and can be there detected. In the use of a salt of iron we should think it as likely that metallic iron would be electrotyped on the surface of the person as to be absorbed, and imagine a patient emerging from his bath in a coat of mail! A number of pages are devoted to the "physiological effects" of the electrical bath, but as the author states that he has had the opportunity of observing its effects on but few healthy persons, the observations as *physio-*

logical are not important. From what is stated, however, we cannot see that the action of the electrical bath differs very widely from general electrization. For example, Dr. Schweig found that the temperature is elevated from two to six-tenths of a degree by the bath. We have frequently seen the temperature raised as much as this, and several times to one and even one and a fifth degree, by general and local faradization combined.

Under the head of "Therapeutic Effects and Uses" our author tells us what the electrical bath will do as a diagnostic agent. The patient is only to be placed in the bath and the seat of disease will be made known by the pain which is then excited by the electricity. No particular diseases are mentioned as capable of being detected in this way, so we suppose the method is equally applicable to all disorders.

Another remarkable property of electrical baths is "their admirable adaptability as a prophylactic." Can it be that every one is expected to take daily baths in order to ward off some lurking disease that may possibly attack him?

More than half of the book is devoted to special therapeutics of disease, and of the thirty-four cases which are related at length but one failed to be cured. Even a case of locomotor ataxia "got as well as ever," although he did suffer a relapse a year later. The other cases were of various affections such as hemiplegia, chorea, infantile paralysis, rheumatism, and "mercurio-syphilitic cachexia." W. S.

ART. XXXV.—*Transactions of State Medical Societies.*

1. *Transactions of the New Hampshire Medical Society.* June, 1875. 8vo. pp. 173. Concord, 1876.
2. *Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of West Virginia.* May and June, 1876. pp. 125–217. Wheeling, 1876.
3. *Transactions of the Colorado State Medical Society.* June, 1876. pp. 92. Denver, 1876.
4. *Proceedings of the Medical Society of the State of Oregon.* July, 1876. pp. 60. Portland, 1876.
5. *Transactions of the Texas State Medical Association.* April, 1876. pp. 212.
6. *Proceedings of the Delaware State Medical Society.* June, 1876. pp. 12.
7. *Transactions of the Wisconsin State Medical Society.* For the year 1876.. pp. 149.
8. *Transactions of the Medical Society of Virginia.* Oct. 1876. pp. 138.
9. *Transactions of the State Medical Society of Michigan.* May, 1874. pp. 134.

1. THE current number of *New Hampshire Transactions* contains little that demands special notice. President S. M. Whipple, in his annual address, agitates the subject of medical reform, demanding protection for the public and the profession from the swarms of quacks that now enjoy the largest liberty for mischief.

From the report of a committee on statistical information we learn that there is a marked excess in the prevalence of typhoid fever and other zymotic diseases in districts which are marshy, or which have a clay subsoil, as compared to localities with good drainage and porous subsoil.

A report on surgery, by Dr. J. W. Parsons, contains a case of persistently